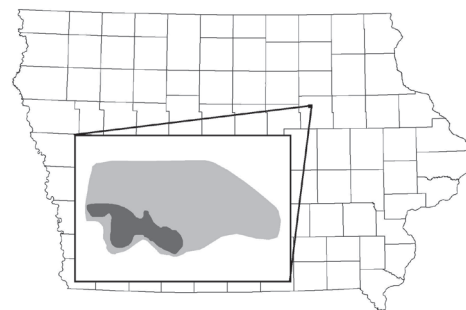


George Wyth Lake

Pollutant: *Bacteria*

Pollution Source: *Animal Waste*



The DNR tests waters throughout Iowa to make sure they are meeting state water quality standards. Those standards are in place to protect drinking water, aquatic life and recreational uses, like swimming. When a stream or lake doesn't meet those standards, the stream or lake is placed on the state's impaired waters list. The DNR then creates a plan that outlines ways Iowans can help improve the water quality in their community's lakes and streams.

DNR needs your input

Every Iowan needs the help of their fellow citizens and watershed groups to improve water quality in their community. If you or your group would like to meet with a DNR staff member to discuss water quality, please contact Jeff Berckes at (515) 281-4791 or Jeff.Berckes@dnr.iowa.gov



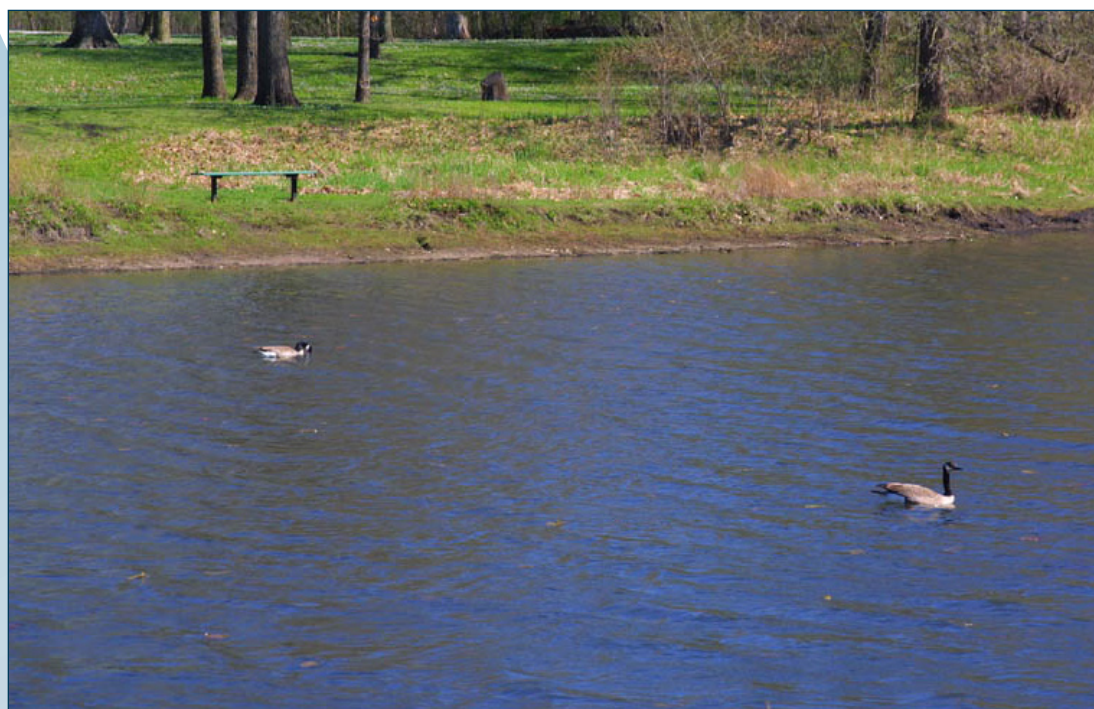
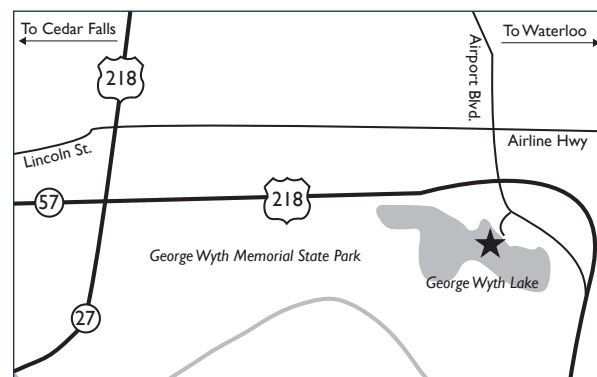
For more information on water quality improvement plans, please visit <http://watershed.iowadnr.gov>

What's wrong with George Wyth Lake?

A number of swimming advisories have been posted at the state park beach since 1999 due to high *E. coli* bacteria levels. The water's *E. coli* levels can indicate the presence of animal waste and disease-causing pathogens, which have the potential to cause human illness.

Stormwater runoff containing animal waste can lead to poor water quality that affects recreational activities at the lake. Most of the *E. coli* in George Wyth Lake comes from animal waste that washes into

the lake during rainfall events, or is directly deposited into the lake by waterfowl. Geese are the largest contributors to high *E. coli* levels at the beach; however, pets and wildlife also contribute.



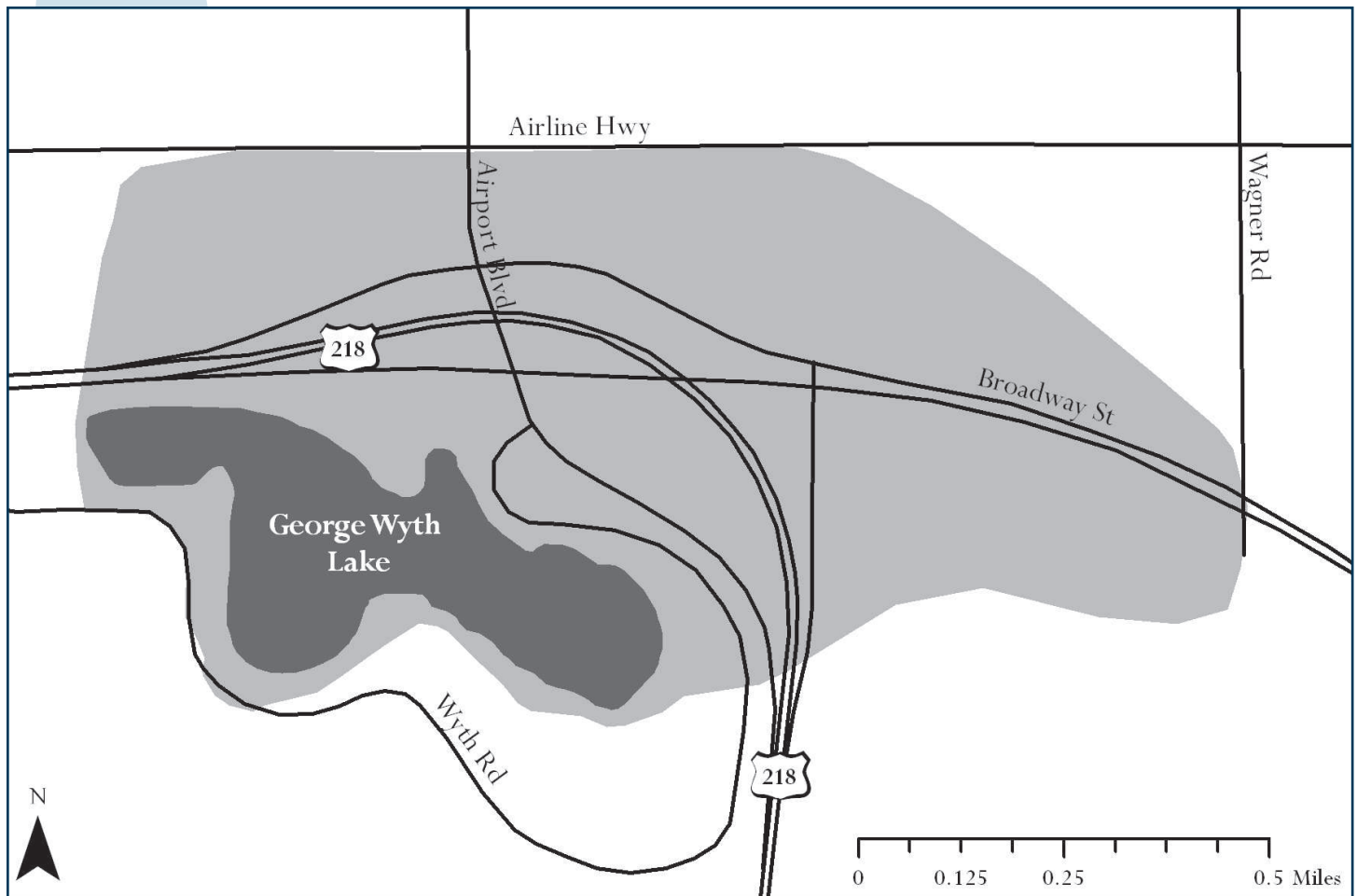
What can be done to improve George Wyth Lake?

The goal is to improve the water quality, restoring the lake's health for safe recreational use. Sources of animal waste need to be reduced to reach this goal. Using research data and public input, the DNR has developed a water quality improvement plan (also known as a TMDL, or Total Maximum Daily Load) to reduce the amount of pollutants reaching George Wyth Lake.

A water quality improvement plan represents a guide to local communities on how they can improve water quality in their watershed. The DNR has performed background research and can offer additional technical assistance and grant funding opportunities. However, it is ultimately the responsibility of the watershed residents and George Wyth State Park patrons to take action and clean up George Wyth Lake.

The DNR has suggested the following conservation practices for the George Wyth Lake watershed:

- ◆ Decrease the population of geese near the beach at George Wyth Lake State Park.
- ◆ Remove food sources from the beach area to encourage geese to relocate.
- ◆ Remove animal waste from the beach using groomer equipment.



The map above shows the George Wyth Lake watershed shaded in gray. A watershed is an area of land that drains into a body of water. In this case, all land shaded in gray drains into George Wyth Lake.